

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Doings in the Army at Chickamauga Park.

Chickamauga Once More Echoing to the Sounds of War—An Interesting Comparison—The Park as a Concentrating Point—Value of Preliminary Field Work—New Features in War.

From THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE'S OWN CORRESPONDENT IN THE FIELD.

CAMP GEORGE H. THOMAS, CHICKAMAUGA PARK, GA., April 26, 1898.

Again, after the lapse of more than a third of a century of peaceful silence, the hills and woods of Chickamauga echo to the tramp of the tramp and roll of the drum. Again the "trump, tramp" of the infantryman, the "chuck" of the artillery wheel, and the gallop of the mounted soldiers tell of war's alarms.

But things have changed. Not gathered for fratricidal strife or arrayed in uniforms of opposing hosts, nor aligned under hostile banners, the soldiers of the Union are gathered here with unity of purpose and object of action. From North and West, the organizations come, bronzed and hardy-looking, and ready, in a sense, to take the field.

DIFFERENT FROM 1863-4.

It is interesting to stand near a train and witness the disembarking. When last troops gathered here they did not ride in "tourist sleepers," or their officers in Pullman coaches, nor were their horses conveyed in patent stock-cars. Neither did they come loaded down, as now, with impedimenta which impeded transportation and added to the difficulties of the Quartermaster. Most of them came, tired, footsore, and with not fully satisfied appetites, and their cartridge-boxes weighed more than did their haversacks, and a blanket-roll held most of their effects in the way of clothing.

Now they come, evincing the fact that the West is a different place. They are well equipped with supplies of everything but forage, sufficient for 30 days.

There are two reasons for this. The supplies for a comparatively large garrison would deteriorate if left till summer months could consume them, and by bringing them with the troops, they would provide for any unforeseen delay en route, and be ready to "begin housekeeping" the moment they arrived.

Then, the enemy held the only line of railroad leading to the West, and used it to hurry up his reinforcements. Now, companies friendly in spirit and anxious to please afford very fair and increasing facilities for transport, and long lines of side-tracked cars hold so heavily taxed facilities are the Chattanooga, Rome & Southern Railroad Company's tracks, running along the western edge of the Park reservation, and it has a small station and side-tracks about 200 yards west of the hill where Gen. Rosecrans had his headquarters, and where Gen. Lytle was killed.

His headquarters good roads render it easy to get about through the Park, and the liveries in Chattanooga drive a thriving business with visitors to the field, and trains are crowded.

THE FIRST ARRIVALS.

There are now about 7,500 troops on the ground, and more are yet to come. Two troops of the 24th Cav. from Fort Wingate, N. M., five days on route, arrived yesterday, and six days on route, from Fort Huachuca, Ariz., reached the field at noon to-day, as also did two light batteries from San Francisco, Cal., seven days on train.

As there is plenty of room, the commands are not crowded, nor are they camped, as a whole, in regular order, though in the regiments, tents, picket lines for horses, etc., are very carefully established. Most of the animals are in fine condition, the mule teams being especially fine.

The selection of the Park as a point for concentrating the troops was every reason a most excellent one. It is easy of access, and departures in any direction can be made over two or more lines of railway. The region is a healthful one. It may be called a

HALF-WAY HOUSE.

for troops from the North and West to stop on the way to the more enervating climate of the Gulf Coast or, as everyone hopes, of Cuba. And it is a most excellent place for the rest of men, surrounded by monuments showing legends of unsurpassed heroism and patriotism, can find lessons of value to anyone who cares to learn.

GEN. JOHN R. BROOKE.

Gen. John R. Brooke, of whom most of the old army men who served in the Army of the Potomac need not be told, is in command, but they would not recognize him now.

Montana Winters have frosted his head, and he wears a much longer belt than 30 years since, but is still the affable, approachable, kindly man he was then.

There is a curious mingling of the blue and gray in the uniforms. Many of the older officers, who served during the war of the rebellion, are "silvered o'er with age," and a large proportion of them, owing to the slowness of promotion in our small army, are still wearing "the bars" of Captains. It is a combination of blue and silver which can be found in no other army than our own.

Coming from widely-separated posts, and with no organizations greater than regimental ones, it is a work requiring time to get them assigned to divisions and brigades. Get temporary staff appointments made, and everything running smoothly. Already some changes have been made, and more are likely to occur as more troops come in, and it would, therefore, be useless to name the organizations, for that could not be really the benefit of the readers of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE.

But now on the ground are the 1st, 2d, 3d, 6th, part of the 9th, and the 10th Cav. One squadron of the 9th, from Fort DuChesne, in southern Utah, must wait till relieved by some other force, and then march to the railroad, nearly 100 miles. It is expected to-morrow.

Eight light batteries (two from each of four regiments) are here, and two from the Pacific Coast are due to arrive to-morrow.

The 2d, 7th, 8th, 12th, 24th and part of 25th Inf. are in camp, and the 1st and 16th are to arrive. The 5th and 10th Cav., 24th and 25th Inf. are colored organizations, the only ones in the Regular Army.

Rumors of all sorts are rife, and telegrams of the grapevine order circulate hourly. It is not at all safe to prophesy what will or will not happen, and the lot of the correspondent is not one of unalloyed happiness if he seeks information of a reliable character, as officials will not volunteer any, and may resent questions if they are very searching.

OFF FOR TAMPA.

APRIL 25. There has been a turn of the kaleidoscope since yesterday morning. The missing squadron of the 9th Cav. came in to-day, and two light batteries, Lassiter, of the 1st Art., and Aprons, of the 4th Art., left this morning for Tampa, Fla., where that division of the service has not yet been represented, and it is said that all the colored troops are to follow at once.

Of course, where so many men are gathered, there will be expressions of opinion among themselves, and while all recognize the necessity of guarded language, the subject of coming operations will be canvassed with more or less freedom. The question of an early land movement in Cuba now, or before the close of the rainy season, comes in for a share of discussion. How many men should constitute the force, and how it should be landed? How long should the National Guard be allowed for preparation? When

should the first landing be made? are all questions of interest.

"Never despic an enemy," is an old and excellent maxim. We hear much of the ineffectiveness of the Spanish forces in Cuba, and part of what we hear is from sources entitled to full credit; but, if not able to withstand an American force of equal size in the open field, they could make the capture of Havana by a land force cost us dearly, if a siege, with lack of provisions in the city, to cause a surrender, should be thought too slow.

To put a few thousand men on the island now, and expect them to do anything more than to hold the ground on which they landed, might only invite disaster, and disasters we cannot afford to risk. Why not try the effects of a strict blockade till the close of the rainy season, if the want of provisions does not force a surrender before that time. Any small force landed now must stay within reach, and have the support of the Navy, and any disaster to that would, of course, put it in a very precarious position.

THE NATIONAL GUARDIEN.

Whatever may be said by the press, or even by the guardians themselves, as to their present readiness to take the field, I venture the assertion, based on personal knowledge and inquiry, that not one of the organizations is fully ready. It needs not so much drill as it does to get its commissariat, its hospital corps, and equipment in first-class order; go into camp, in this country, on some such ground as this place affords; get brigaded and assigned to divisions; get commanders acquainted with their commands, and the men in the ranks to know their officers, all from highest to lowest; get used to camp life; get the weak and the incompetent weeded out; enforce strict discipline in every grade, and at the end of two or three months, we will have an army, 60,000 of them, can land at any point in Cuba and march to any other point assured of success over any army Spain can put in its way.

EXTEND ACQUAINTANCES.

As a means of unification, avoid as far as practicable the brigading of troops by States. Rather, unite different sections of the country under the same command, and thus cultivate better acquaintance.

It is to be hoped that no "political generals" will be seen in this field. The man who goes into it from "political" motives is a self-seeker, not a patriot, and should be avoided.

It is probable that before this meets the eyes of your readers the number of men called for by the President will have been enlisted. But, while I would not utter one word which could be construed into discouragement of patriotic spirits, I would caution those who, from extreme youth, or from any physical unsoundness, are not unquestionably fit to stand the exposure which falls to the soldier's lot, from enlistment.

Surgeons will be careful in examining would-be recruits, but some will "get past them" who ought not to, and such can only be a burden instead of assistance.

I have been led to make these remarks by what I have to-day seen in Chattanooga, where enlistment has been going on, and boys who should be in school have been in the ranks.

NEW FEATURES IN WAR.

In passing through the camps two or three special things, among others, attracted my attention when compared with usages and articles in use 35 years ago. The click of the typewriter, using "manila" paper, renders the issuance of orders and keeping of records much easier than such work was then; and the man on a bicycle is essentially "the coming man" as a bearer of dispatches, when roads are available; and a detachment of signal service men, stringing wire among the trees near camp to-day, and sitting down at the foot of one, with a "sander" on one's knee, while he read the message, showed that on the field messages could be carried by speed greater than that of wheel or horse.

Old cavalry soldiers of the war of the rebellion would find some difference in equipment now. The saber, when one is a horse, is fastened to the saddle, passing under the

left stirrup, and reaching by passing the hand over the bridle arm; and, instead of "the carbine sling," a "boot," in which the weapon rests, is on the right side of the pomel, and pointing downward and backward, the lower end passing under the stirrup-strap for the purpose of steadying it.

In artillery drill the "manual of the piece" is much simplified by use of the breech-loader, and, instead of a lock-chain for the wheel, the rammer is now let down to clinch the tires, are attached to the outside of the cheeks and inside the wheels.

The steel "three-inch rifle" has a muzzle velocity of over 2,000 feet per second, can throw a shell four miles, is accurate at three miles, pierces anything under three and a half inches of steel at a mile, and is fired six times a minute. An officer of a light battery is my authority.

With the rifle now in use in the infantry, the manual of arms is very much less complicated than was that in use during the late war. Of course, the rammer is discarded, save as a cleaning tool, and the "shoulder arms" of former times have ceased to be used, the shape of the Krug-Jorgensen not admitting of it.

There is some complaint about that arm, both by cavalry and infantry, and men do not seem to have the confidence in it which they had in the Springfield breech-loader, caliber .45 of an inch.

There will probably be little use for the saber in the future. The rapid-riding army now in use both by mounted and foot troops will prevent close hand-to-hand fighting in open country, and in covert the weapon is only in the way. We hear much of the power of the machete in the hands of the Cubans, but if each one had a good rifle or carbine we should hear less.

I wish I had time, and THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE had space, for descriptions of all the monuments on this field. There is no other battlefield like it. The monuments bear on their faces a record of valor unsurpassed anywhere in history.

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TROOPS IN THE FIELD.

A Breezy Letter from Chickamauga Rendezvous.

Capt. Godfrey Tells Incidents of the Road and the Camp—Enthusiasm for the Troops—Uncle Sam's Soldiers Ready to Fight.

CAMP G. H. THOMAS, CHICKAMAUGA, GA., April 26, 1898.

I have arrived here and am finally settled. En route I was the only officer on the train, and when we arrived at Asheville, N. C., I had quite a collection of letters out on the platform. Two of them were from the health resort, and was promptly engaged by a reporter, who desired information as to my name, rank and destination. A few yards away a boy of girls, about twenty in number, were making a reconnaissance. Two of them happened to know the reporter, and they cautiously advanced as skirmishers. Supported by one of the sweetest smiles I ever saw, one of them asked the reporter if he was Gen. H. H. Lee, and he was not on the train.

When assured to the contrary, she began rather tremulously and with appealing glances in my direction, and the young ladies had expected him and had come down to the train to see the famous warrior. In the meantime, the main body of girls had drawn near, and this preliminary skirmish was the signal for a general advance. I was soon surrounded, and gallantly strove to keep up the unequal fight. I was pulled out by the reporter in confusion, leaving the field in possession of the fair Confederates. Thus ended the battle of Asheville.

Having arrived at Chattanooga, I started on the following morning to reach the camp at Chickamauga. I boarded a cavalry train bound for the battle site, but we were delayed and delayed several hours. The result was that I wandered back and fell into the arms of my old friends of the 8th Inf. and moved on to the camp, and owing to the inadequate railroad facilities, had been there, swearing, almost as long as we had.

It was a long and tiresome journey, however, that finally took away the tiresome monotony of waiting. During some of the switching maneuvers the rear car of the infantry train jumped from the tracks, and fell over the side, and finally crashed into the tender of a locomotive backing in the opposite direction. The result was that the coach was derailed, but not overturned.

If you have ever poked up an ant-hill or a hornet's nest, you know your duty. Forward, charge! and away we went, knocking the fence to pieces sufficient to pass, and scrambling for dear life to the goal. Some rebel infantry—Jackson's men—were posted within easy range along the foot of the heights. They hastily fired and fell back. Our first loss was a private, Co. B, struck by a piece of shell as we went through the gate above mentioned back of the city, and now our next was Sergeant Richardson (Capt. Digby), Co. B. From there on our point of destination we lost 70 men, in a distance of little over a quarter of a mile.

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MARVE'S HIGHTS.

The Part Taken by the Rochester Rifle in the Conflict.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: Nothing sketches concerning Marve's Hights, I am constrained to inform Comrade Wiley, Co. I, 130th Pa., and Co. F, 9th Pa. Cav., that the regiment coming up on its regiment's right was not the "Irish Brigade," but the 13th N. Y. (Rochester Rifle).

We came up through the gateway in the wall above the city, and had just cleared the gap, and were still in column of fours, when Gen. Burnside rode up to Col. Marshall, and ordered him to form line and charge over the rising ground in front of the height.

Other regiments had nobly charged there, and had fallen like grass before the scythe, and Col. Marshall had been an eye-witness of it. Col. Marshall was of a very sanguine temperament. He was a West Pointer. He was dubbed by the boys "Old Bricktop." When under fire he feared nothing.

As Gen. Burnside completed the last sentence of the order Col. Marshall looked him square in the eye, and saluting as perfectly as if on dress parade, and with his own peculiar emphasis when highly indignant, said:

"General, I will see you in — before I will put my men over that field! If you want those guns silenced, say so, and we will silence them."

Time I will see you in — before I will put my men over that field! If you want those guns silenced, say so, and we will silence them."

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The members of our association must be delighted with the universal feeling and display of patriotism. Washington cannot be enthusiastic enough in its display of flags.

Every street is bright with great, gay bunting, blue in the windows, and everywhere from roofs and towers the colors fly, and let the eye look where it will it will always see a bit of the colors fluttering against the sky. Direct cars, delivery wagons and ash carts race them through the streets, and every other man has a bit of flag on his coat and the girls wear tiny patches of red, white and blue on their lapels. Many of us have never seen so much of the flag before, and it gladdens the eye and heart to see how quickly and how universally the feeling for it is called forth.

Washington itself is at its prettiest, with leaves, blossoms and singing birds, and although the war is the great topic of all, yet in the pauses between news, the rest of the woods and field blossoms is only half a girl, unless, perhaps, she is well acquainted with their cousins, sisters and aunts of different cl